

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 112. (currently amended) Apparatus for responding to a request, the request including
2 one or more specifiers referring to one or more objects ~~belonging to a plurality thereof~~ in
3 a distributed database system that includes a plurality of database systems and
4 the apparatus comprising:
5 a first database system of the plurality; and
6 a redirector which responds to the request when the request includes a specifier
7 that cannot be interpreted in the first database system by causing the request to be
8 executed at least in part in a second database system of the plurality, the request
9 otherwise being executed in the first database system.

1 113. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 112
2 wherein:
3 the objects in the first database system include copies of objects contained
4 in at least one other database system belonging to the distributed database system.

1 114. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 113
2 wherein:
3 the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the objects whose
4 copies are included ~~therein~~ in the first database system.

1 115. (currently-amended) The apparatus ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 113
2 wherein the other database system is the second database system.

1 116. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 115
2 wherein:

3 the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the second database
4 system.

1 | **117.** (currently amended) The apparatus ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with any one of claims
2 | 112 through 116 wherein:

3 | the apparatus is local to a server of the type that provides a program executing ~~in~~
4 | on the server with a standard interface for querying databases; and
5 | the requests include queries received via the standard interface.

1 | **118.** (currently amended) The apparatus ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 117
2 | wherein:

3 | the server obeys the ~~http protocol~~ hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the
4 | program is a Web application program.

1 | **119.** (currently amended) A method of responding to a request, the request including one
2 | or more specifiers that refer to one or more objects ~~belonging to a plurality thereof~~ in a
3 | distributed database system that includes a plurality of database systems and
4 | the method comprising the steps of:

5 | receiving the request in a first database system of the plurality of database
6 | systems;

7 | determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in
8 | the first database system of the plurality of database systems; and

9 when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at
10 | least in part in a second database system of the plurality of database systems.

1 | **120.** (currently amended) The method ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 119 wherein:
2 the objects in the first database system include copies of objects contained in at
3 least one other database system belonging to the distributed database system,
4 whereby the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the objects whose
5 | copies are included ~~therein~~ in the first database system.

1 | **121.** (currently amended) The method ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 120 wherein:
2 the other database system is the second database system,
3 whereby the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the second database
4 system.

1 | **122.** (currently amended) The method ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with any one of claims
2 119 through 121 wherein:
3 the first database system is local to a server of the type that provides a program
4 | executing ~~in-on~~ the server with a standard interface for querying databases; and
5 in the step of receiving the request, the request is received via the standard
6 interface.

1 | **123.** (currently amended) The method ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 122 wherein:

2 | the server obeys the ~~http protocol~~hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the
3 | program is a Web application program.

1 | **124.** (currently amended) A memory device characterized in that:

2 | the memory device contains code which, when executed in a processor, performs
3 | a method of responding to a request, the request including one or more specifiers that
4 | refer to one or more objects ~~belonging to a plurality thereof~~ in a distributed database
5 | system that includes a plurality of database systems and
6 | the method comprising the steps of:

7 | receiving the request in a first database system of the plurality of database
8 | systems;

9 | determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in
10 | the first database system of the plurality of database systems; and

11 | when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at
12 | least in part in a second database system of the plurality of database systems.

1 **125.** (previously presented) Apparatus for caching copies of objects belonging to a subset of the
2 objects belonging to a first database system that returns an object in response to a request
3 therefor, the request including one or more specifiers referring to the objects and
4 the apparatus comprising:

5 a second database system that contains the copies; and

6 a redirector that responds to the request when the request includes a specifier that cannot
7 be interpreted in the second database system by causing the request to be executed at least in part
8 in the first database system, the request otherwise being executed in the second database system.

1 **126.** (currently amended) The apparatus ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 125 wherein:

2 the apparatus is local to a server of the type that provides a program executing ~~on~~ the
3 server with a standard interface for querying databases; and

4 the requests include queries received via the standard interface.

1 **127.** (currently amended) The apparatus ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 126 wherein:

2 the server obeys the ~~http protocol~~ hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a
3 Web application program.

1 **128.** (currently amended) A method of responding to a request that includes one or more
2 specifiers referring to one or more objects belonging to a set ~~thereof~~ of objects where the objects
3 are stored in a first database system and copies of a subset ~~thereof~~ of the set of objects are stored
4 in a second database system,

5 the method comprising the steps of:

6 receiving the request in the second database system;

7 determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the
8 second database system; and

9 when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at least in
10 part in the first database system instead of in the second database system.

1 | 129. (currently amended) The method ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 128 wherein:

2 the second database system is local to a server of the type that provides a program
3 executing ~~in-on~~ the server with a standard interface for querying databases; and
4 in the step of receiving the request, the request is received via the standard interface.

1 | 130. (currently amended) The method ~~set forth in~~ in accordance with claim 129 wherein:

2 the server obeys the ~~http protocol~~ hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a
3 Web application program.

1 | 131. (currently amended) A memory device characterized in that:

2 the memory device contains code which, when executed in a processor, performs
3 a method of responding to a request that includes one or more specifiers referring to
4 objects belonging to a set ~~thereof~~ of objects where the objects are stored in a first database
5 system and copies of a subset ~~thereof~~ of the set of objects are stored in a second database
6 system,

- 7 the method comprising the steps of:
- 8 receiving the request in the second database system;
- 9 determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in
- 10 the second database system; and
- 11 when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at
- 12 least in part in the first database system instead of in the second database system.